



Mexico Class Newsletter

Summer Term 2019

Welcome Back!

I hope you have had a wonderful Easter and didn't eat too many chocolate eggs or hot cross buns! This term our topic is 'Below The Waves' and I am excited by the opportunities this topic offers: Creatures of the deep, The Titanic and other shipwrecks, a range of habitats, submarines and submersibles! Hopefully your children will be as enthused as I am!

As part of the topic we shall watch some interesting television documentaries which explore our seas and oceans as well as experimenting with painting and sketching techniques on different paper for our art display.

Here is a brief outline of the subjects and themes we will be covering this term, along with some useful points to note. If you need any further information then please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.



This term you will find your children becoming great marine biologists and habitat experts, delving into the vast topic of the ocean. You can find out more about this theme in our class assembly on **Friday 5th July 2019**.

You should have already received a letter regarding an off-site school trip this term to the Brighton Sea Life Centre, which links brilliantly with our studies and will take place on **Thursday 20th June**. Please ensure trip donations are submitted well in advance.



Literacy

We will begin our term by honing our recount writing skills by creating diary entries. These will be inspired by looking at the history of the sinking of the Titanic and the many artefacts and diary entries that were found in the wreckage. We have a close 'local' link to the Titanic and have enlisted the help of the Godalming Museum where they have many artefacts linking to a local man, Jack Phillips, the Chief Wireless Telegraphist of RMS Titanic. Jack stayed on the Titanic transmitting SOS calls; his last message was picked up by the *Virginia* of the Allen Line at 2.17am, and the Titanic foundered at 2.20am. There is a memorial to Jack Phillips in Godalming which can be found between the River Wey and Godalming Parish Church near to the village park and bowling green.

After half-term, we will be learning and producing non-chronological texts, creating our own creatures from the deep and using our full imagination to create behaviours and characteristics! We will use jellyfish, angler fish, octopi and squid for inspiration to create our monsters lurking in the depths. This will be followed by a fictional writing unit, where we will create our own adventure story inspired by the book 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo.



The children will be taught about the importance of written work making sense, having a purpose and being grammatically correct, through both inspiring Literacy lessons and explicit grammar lessons. We will be continuing to focus on the 'talk for writing' technique which is really engaging the children and producing some fabulous written work. Guided Reading sessions this term will include time to enjoy reading different types of text, some of which relate directly to the script taken from the film 'Titanic'. In addition we will enjoy focussed learning sessions that will help to build the skills necessary to become a lifelong reader.

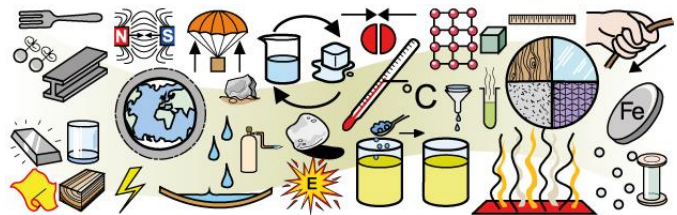
There will be many key texts this term, however our whole class text will be 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo, as mentioned above. Michael Morpurgo is a celebrated children's author who was awarded the Children's Laureate in 2003. Children's Laureate is a position initially awarded in the United Kingdom once every two years to a "writer or illustrator of children's books to celebrate outstanding achievement in their field."

Spellings will continue to be given out on a Monday and the children will be tested on the following Monday.



Maths

We will begin the term by looking at Multiplication and Division. This will be followed by investigations into Geometry and 3D shapes and will be inspired by underwater submarines and sea creatures. Further topics through the term will link to our 'Below the Waves' topic, including angles and translation. Throughout the term we will focus on using and applying our Maths knowledge as well as developing our skills of reasoning and deduction. We will be continuing with Mental Maths sessions this term, embedding our knowledge of times tables and their respective division facts, and we will focus on applying this Mental Maths knowledge to solving problems in real-life contexts.



Science

In the first half-term, we will begin with our Biology unit 'Living things and their habitats'. We will then move onto a new topic after half-term, 'Lifecycles of Animals'. The children will continue to develop their investigative skills through both these units including looking back and applying the previous topics of forces and materials. The main focus for development this term will be linking their scientific knowledge to making conclusions and hypothesis to wider world issues.

Computing

This term the children will continue learning about e-safety and how to stay safe and responsible online.

Later in the term they may get an opportunity to create their own 'Chatter-Bot' using Scratch programming. This will extend the children's knowledge by designing, writing and debugging programs that accomplish specific goals.

R.E.

The first half-term, we will be continuing with our new unit about Christianity and studying 'What did Jesus do to save human beings?' We will investigate and discuss the meaning of words such as sacrifice, incarnation and salvation. The unit also investigates the narratives of Jesus' death and makes clear connections between Christian beliefs.

In the second half-term we will be looking at 'What kind of King is Jesus?'. We will be discussing and making connections between belief in the Kingdom of God and how Christians put their beliefs into practice in different ways, including in worship and in service to the community.



Spanish

Miss Bell will be continuing to teach Spanish to the children every Friday afternoon. She has already commented on the great progress and clarity of the language the children have.

Art and Design Technology

This term we have Mrs Nethercleft joining us to initiate a project based upon producing pictures of fish on silk, which will be a major part of a school initiative. It links very nicely into our topic. You may recall Mrs Nethercleft is an accomplished artist and teacher, so we are very much looking forward to receiving her expert advice and support in order to produce some very stimulating and excellent artwork.

Later in the term we will focus on specific techniques using both oil and soft pastels. We shall use these skills to create a 'life-size eye' of a deep sea creature, linking back to our Literacy unit once again for inspiration. In Art Week we shall be looking at conservation and the huge issue of plastic in the ocean as inspiration for a mixed media project.

Music

With the support of Mr Rogers, our Music coordinator, Year 5 are continuing to learn how to play the Ukulele, and will be taught certain chords. We are hoping by the end of the term the children will be able to play a recognisable 'tune' from memory showcasing the new skills and notes they have learned to play.



P.E.

The children will have one P.E. session a week. This outdoor athletics session will take place on **Friday afternoon** and will continue to be delivered by Brighton and Hove. Please remember that the **correct P.E kit** should be **in school at all times** and that children need to have plimsolls and outdoor trainers. No jewellery is to be worn; please ensure that all earrings are removed on P.E days if the children are not able to remove them themselves. Please note that trainers are for P.E only and not to be worn as part of the day to day school uniform without prior consent from Mrs Copus.

Swimming

There will be one swimming lesson each week on **Wednesdays at 9am until 10.45am**. The class will be divided into two groups according to ability. When not swimming the children will be supervised in class by a member of staff. They will be given the opportunity to work in four categories: **Reading, Spelling, Times Tables practice** and **Homework**.

Mrs Treadwell will be poolside once again supporting on a Wednesday. I am very pleased she will be joining us to ensure the children are progressing nicely with their techniques and confidence in the water.



Please ensure your child comes in suitably equipped for swimming lessons and **please refer to the separate letter, sent last term, for further details**. N.B. Verruca socks are **no longer** available from the School Office.

N.B. in the event of very hot weather, please take precautionary measures with sun cream and/or a sun hat. **Please apply sun cream before your child comes to school.**

Other News

Forest School

We will be getting the opportunity to spend a day at Forest School. Our Forest School date is **11th June**. Please do note that we provide the children with snacks that they can cook on the campfire and other activities throughout the day. We will be asking you to make a **donation (£1.00)** to Mexico class to help support us in providing these enriched experiences. You will receive further information regarding the day nearer the time.



Year 5/6 Play

As usual we are hoping to have the 'Big Top' marquee erected on the school field to host the Year 5 and 6 end of term summer play. This year your children will play an active part in supporting the Year 6 in their final primary performance. We hope you are able to come along to support our budding actors. Once again, further information will be provided nearer the time.

Please keep referring to the school newsletter and our website for additional information as to what is happening in our school.

How can you help?

- 1) Please ensure that your child **learns** their weekly **spellings** and **times tables**.
- 2) As part of their weekly homework the children must **read for at least 10 minutes** 3 times a week at home. The logs will be marked each week on a Friday. However, please ensure your child brings in their reading book and log every day. It would be lovely if you could listen to your child read and discuss what they have read, however I appreciate this is not always possible. Sometimes your child might prefer to read independently. If this is the case, encourage them to record what they have read in their reading log, along with their thoughts on what they have read.
- 3) **Support your child** with their weekly Maths, Literacy or topic homework. Make a game of it. Children can be very competitive.
- 4) **Encourage your child** with any work they want to do at home and always try and make it fun!
- 5) **Walking home** - we require a written request from the parent/carer submitted to the school office should you wish a child to walk home after school on their own. Without this we are not able to let your child leave the school grounds unaccompanied.
- 6) **Mobile phones** – Should you require your children to bring a mobile phone to school they will be asked to hand it in to the teacher. It will be stored carefully and returned to the child at the end of the day. Please note that St Mary's will not be responsible for any loss or damage to the mobile phones.

How can I help?

I am very happy to hear from any parent who may have a concern or who needs any further information. I will be setting up communication via Class Dojo, which will allow you to message me privately. I am also around most afternoons, after school to see parents. If you wish to speak to me in greater depth you may also make an appointment to see me, via the School Office.

Miss Sleat ☺